

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

Abstract

A process for the recovery of a Lewis acid from a reaction mixture (I) which has been obtained in the hydrocyanation of an olefinically unsaturated compound to a nitrile which has a miscibility gap with water under certain pressure and temperature conditions, in the presence of a catalyst system comprising a Lewis acid and a complex compound. The method comprises

- a) removing the complex compound from mixture (I) to give a mixture (II),
- b) adding water to mixture (II) and placing mixture (II) under pressure and temperature conditions to provide a phase (III) and a phase (IV)
- c) adding a liquid diluent (V) which
 - cl) does not form an azeotrope with water and whose boiling point under certain pressure conditions is higher than that of water, or
 - c2) forms an azeotrope or heteroazeotrope with water under certain pressure conditions,to phase (III),
- d) subjecting the mixture of phase (III) and liquid diluent (V) to distillation under the pressure conditions mentioned in step cl or c2, and
- e) subjecting mixture (VII) to hydrocyanation of an olefinically unsaturated compound to give the nitrile.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT (Marked up version)

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

~~Process for the recovery of a Lewis acid~~**Abstract**

A process for the recovery of a Lewis acid from a reaction mixture (I) which has been obtained in the hydrocyanation of an olefinically unsaturated compound to a nitrile which has a miscibility gap with water under certain ~~amount~~, pressure and temperature conditions, in the presence of a catalyst system comprising a Lewis acid and a complex compound, ~~comprising a phosphorus-containing compound which is suitable as ligand and a central atom which is suitable for this compound, which~~ The method comprises

- a) removing the ~~said~~ complex compound from mixture (I) to give a mixture (II),
- b) adding water to mixture (II) and placing the ~~latter~~ mixture (II) under pressure and temperature conditions ~~such that~~ to provide a phase (III) ~~which has a higher content of water than of the said nitrile and a phase (IV) which has a higher content of the said nitrile than of water are obtained, where phase (III) has a higher content of the said Lewis acid than does phase (IV),~~
- c) adding a liquid diluent (V) which
 - c1) does not form an azeotrope with water and whose boiling point under certain pressure conditions is higher than that of water, or
 - c2) forms an azeotrope or heteroazeotrope with water under certain pressure conditions,to phase (III),
- d) subjecting the mixture of phase (III) and liquid diluent (V) to distillation under the pressure conditions mentioned in step c1) or c2), ~~giving a mixture (VI) which has a higher content of water than of diluent (V) and a mixture (VII) which has a higher content of~~

~~diluent (V) than of water, where mixture (VII) has a higher content of the said Lewis acid than does mixture (VI),~~

and

e) ~~subjecting mixture (VII) to hydrocyanation of an olefinically unsaturated compound to give a the nitrile which has a miscibility gap with water under certain amount, pressure and temperature conditions, in the presence of a catalyst system comprising a Lewis acid and a complex compound comprising a phosphorus-containing compound which is suitable as ligand and a central atom which is suitable for this compound.~~